

INL encourages innovation with grant to Idaho TechConnect

On Feb. 15, during a ceremony in Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's office, Idaho National Laboratory (INL) presented Idaho TechConnect a check for \$75,000 to support that organization's unique suite of technology collaboration and commercialization services.

Idaho TechConnect is a nonprofit private-public organization focused on technology development and transfer and its impact on the state's economy. Specifically, TechConnect supports research and development efforts throughout the state, promotes industry-university collaboration, facilitates commercialization of technology developed in Idaho, nurtures an entrepreneurial culture and invests in infrastructure to support a technology-based economy. TechConnect maintains four regional offices--in Post Falls, Nampa, Jerome and Idaho Falls--to provide access to regional, state and national resources.

In TechConnect's news release, Gov. Otter commented, "The INL is a terrific resource on its own. But it's far more valuable when it leverages its resources to help diversify and expand Idaho's economy. Nurturing private-sector initiatives that put Idaho on the cutting edge of science and technology is a great investment in our state's future, and it's a model for how government ought to work."

"We're honored to be able to partner with the state in enabling the continued operation of Idaho TechConnect," added Jack Lance, INL's director of Technology Partnerships. "As a national laboratory, we are expected to do what we can to help move our wide-ranging technologies from the drawing board and bench-scale to the marketplace. TechConnect is remarkably well-positioned to do that--not just for the lab, but for universities, other large technology employers and visionary entrepreneurs, as well."

Since 2002, INL has contributed more than \$800,000 to Idaho TechConnect and has assisted with its signature event, TechLaunch. TechLaunch has provided commercialization support to 22 companies since 2004, garnering \$15.6 million in third-party R&D and investment capital in Idaho.

More information about Idaho TechConnect is available at: <http://www.idahotechconnect.com/Home/>.

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Photo: Idaho map

TechConnect has four offices located across Idaho.